

*Michael Clarke Spoken Presentation to the SBOE on the Revised
Rearticulated Science Standards*

Michael A. Clarke

Mr. President, Madame Vice-President, State Board members, Ladies and Gentlemen; my name is Dr. Michael Clarke and until April 2nd, this year I was employed by OSSE as an Instructional System Specialist for Math and Science. My last major project at OSSE was the rearticulation of the Science Standards as part of a larger strategy to gain US Dept of Education approval for DC's State Assessment System. The Standards had to be rewritten because there were two major problems; the structure was poor and the content, in some areas, incorrect.

I had developed a two step process for that work; the first step was to fix the structure and the second step to fix the content. Because the Science Standards cover multiple domains I reached out to national experts in relevant fields so that the content could be as up-to-date as possible. After I had fixed the structure I was told to discontinue that work.

That is why I left OSSE and I am here today to present the Revised and Rearticulated Science Standards to you with a recommendation that you adopt these standards as the State Science Standards for the Tested grades.

As an educator I consider that anyone who would knowingly have incorrect content in State Standards is guilty of a crime. You are forcing teachers to teach content that you know to be false; you are also forcing students to learn content that you know to be false.

This puts even your most competent teachers in a bad position.

These teachers may realize that the content is incorrect but they are faced with the dilemma that, if they do not teach the content that the students will be held accountable for, then the students and the schools will suffer the consequences for a poor performance, on a poor test. I have used my time and contacts to fix the problem with the standards. I know your concern for our students and teachers will allow you to complete the process.